

Filed for intro on 02/22/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SR0005
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Benjamin Hooks on his 70th birthday.

WHEREAS, once in a great while, the serendipitous hand of destiny places in our midst an individual whose rare combination of talents and abilities serve to shape the tenor of our times: such a man is Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated individual who is full of compassion, Dr. Hooks is one of the nation's most celebrated leaders. He is a man of outstanding ability whose elaborate career has encompassed several fields, including business, ministry, public service and law; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 1995 Dr. Hooks celebrated his 70th birthday; and

WHEREAS, endowed by God with uncommon insight, wisdom, and truly gifted leadership ability, Dr. Hooks has served meritoriously as executive director of the NAACP, taking the organization to unbelievable heights. Dr. Hooks is responsible for retiring the debt of the NAACP's national headquarters in Baltimore; he also kept the organization at the forefront of the endless fight to enhance and protect the civil rights of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable man by any measure, Dr. Benjamin Hooks is currently the president of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the outspoken civil rights activist played an extremely significant role in the passage of legislation to impose economic sanctions against South Africa and promoting the Voting Rights Extension and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday bills; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Dr. Hooks diligently served as the first African American member of the FCC, in which position he was responsible for the dramatic increase in African American ownership of broadcast licenses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooks, an exemplary scholar, attended LeMoyne College in Memphis, Tennessee, received his bachelor's degree from Howard University and his law degree from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and is the recipient of more than twenty-five honorary degrees; and

WHEREAS, as a commendable legal scholar, Dr. Hooks experienced the joy of being appointed the first African American judge in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, his life is a chronicle of achievements; Dr. Hooks was co-founder and served as vice-president of Mutual Federal Savings and Loan for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, in living a life of service which goes far beyond the spectrum of his position with the NAACP, Dr. Hooks has taken an active role in pastoring the Greater Middle Baptist Church where he serves the community by preaching the word of God and uplifting those in need of spiritual guidance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooks is truly a blessed man, sharing love and compassion with his beautiful wife, Frances Hooks, and he is most appreciative of her presence in his life; and

WHEREAS, it is the task of this body to recognize those incredible individuals whose unparalleled service testifies to their inspired leadership ability and uncommon wisdom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Dr. Benjamin Hooks on his 70th birthday celebration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.